

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 00060 111102Z
ACTION AF-10

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CT, US
SUBJ: CAE CONGRESSIONAL INVITATION

REF: 77 STATE 310906, 77 STATE 303082

1. DURING MY TOUR D'HORIZON WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GBEZERA-BRIA ON JANUARY 10, I ASKED ABOUT THE GOCAE'S PLANS FOR A CONGRESSIONAL VISIT. WHEN WAS IT PLANNED; HOW MANY AND WHO DID THEY INTEND TO INVITE; WHAT SUBJECTS DID THE GOCAE PROPOSE TO DISCUSS.

2. GBEZERA'S REPLY CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S THINKING HAD NOT GONE BEYOND THAT REPORTED IN STATE 310906 AFTER AMBASSADOR MAIDOU'S CALL ON AF/C DIRECTOR JUNIOR. THE GOCAE'S PREOCCUPATION IS TO GET SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN HERE TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE REALITIES OF THE COUNTRY AND THEREBY TO DISPEL WHAT IT BELIEVES TO BE THE INACCURATE AND DISTORTED VIEW OF THE CAE WHICH THE CONGRESS HAS FROM PRESS REPORTS. GBEZERA ASSURED ME CONGRESSMEN WOULD HAVE FULL LIBERTY TO LOOK AND ASK QUESTIONS. HE MADE CLEAR THAT THE FOCUS OF THE GOCAE'S INTEREST IS IN THE ECONOMIC DIMENSION OF THE US-CAE RELATIONSHIP AND IN A RESUMPTION OF AID.

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3. I TOLD GBEZERA THAT IN MY VIEW THE GOCAE WOULD HAVE TO PREPARE THE VISIT VERY CAREFULLY. IT WAS IMPORTANT TO INVITE CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAD A DIRECT CONCERN EITHER FOR AFRICA OR FOR AID AND THE BUDGETARY PROCESS. IN THIS REGARD THEY WOULD BE WELL-ADVISED TO FOCUS ON THE AFRICAN SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COM-

MITTEES, AS WELL AS ON THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES. THE
GOCAE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT A CONGRESSIONAL VISIT WOULD NOT
NECESSARILY RESULT IN A COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF PAST MIS-
UNDERSTANDINGS OR IN AN IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF AID. ANY
CONGRESSMAN OR SENATOR COMING TO THE CAE WOULD BE INTERESTED
IN HUMAN RIGHTS, THE GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND.
IF THE VISIT TOOK PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE QUESTION OF
THE COST OF THE CORONATION. THERE WOULD BE NO GUARANTEE OF A
POSITIVE RESPONSE ON THE PART OF A VISITING DELEGATION. LIKE
JOURNALISTS, CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS WERE EXTREMELY INDEPENDENT
IN THEIR VIEWS AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE
POSSIBILITY OF A NEGATIVE REACTION. THE GOCAE SHOULD THUS
RECOGNIZE THE RISK INVOLVED IN SUCH A VISIT. ON BALANCE I
THOUGHT IT WAS AN EFFORT WORTH MAKING AND, AS WE HAD INDICATED
TO AMBASSADOR MAIDOU, WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO PLAY A FACILITATIVE
ROLE.
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